

October 31, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Court Performance Innovation grant recipients named; projects include human trafficking court, peacemaking court, smart phone apps, social media

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Chief Ingham judge 'caught by surprise' by attempt to remove state Court of Claims

"The chief judge of Ingham County Circuit Court says she's surprised and concerned by the speed with which bills to remove the State Court of Claims from her court are moving through the Legislature.... Bills passed the Senate [Wednesday] on a 26-11 party line vote, with Republicans in the majority, one day after they were reported out of committee with a single hearing."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: GOP lawmakers want court of claims out of Ingham circuit

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan GOP leader defends 'non-political' bill to move suits against state out of Ingham County

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan Republicans fast-track Senate bill to move lawsuits against state out of Ingham County

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: GOP Plan Would Move Claims Court From Democrat-Leaning Ingham County

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Man beaten, harassed by Westland cops awarded \$700K

"A man whose harassment and beating by two Westland police officers was recorded by one of the officers' lapel microphones was awarded nearly \$700,000 after city officials settled the man's lawsuit against the police department. In addition, a Michigan Supreme Court decision in the case could impact future defendants charged with assaulting police officers."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County sues jail construction firms as its looks to sell stalled site to Dan Gilbert's company

"The project and construction managers of the failed Wayne County Jail project are being sued by the county and the Wayne County Building Authority. The lawsuit charges they failed to abide by contractual obligations, leading to about \$50 million in cost overruns.... County officials have been working more than six months to unload the scrapped jail site and move jail and court operations to the site of the mostly empty Mound Correctional Facility in northeast Detroit."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Wayne Co. sues jail project manager for \$154M

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Four Michiganders get Senate hearings for federal judgeships

"Four Michiganders nominated for the federal bench in Detroit got their hearing today before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the next step in their being confirmed as U.S. District Court judges. The four included Matthew Leitman, a lawyer at Miller Canfield; Assistant U.S. Attorney Judith Levy; Laurie Michelson, a federal magistrate for the Eastern District of Michigan; and Linda Parker, a judge on Michigan's 3rd Judicial Circuit."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Trial set in Macomb County for suspect in 'Backpage' murders case

"A Feb. 4 trial date was set today in the case of a Sterling Heights man accused of murdering four women he met through a classified advertising website. James C. Brown, 25, is facing 10 charges in the 2011 deaths of four women he met on Backpage.com."

[Full story](#)

Birmingham Patch Blog: Non-English Speaking Persons Gain Greater Access To Michigan Courts

"Courts initiate a plan to provide interpreters throughout the State of Michigan, as needed, in all courts and in all areas of law. Michigan Courts seek to remove language barriers for non-English speaking persons, according to two new court rules and one administrative order that went into effect September 11, 2013."

[Full story](#)

The Daily News/Iron Mountain: New trial for former Iron River trooper

"The Michigan Attorney General's Office will not contest the Michigan Court of Appeals' decision to grant former Michigan State Police trooper David Morikawa a new trial on criminal sexual conduct charges. In August, the Michigan Court of Appeals found that Morikawa, 39, had ineffective assistance of counsel during his July 2011 trial in Iron County on two felony counts of criminal sexual conduct-second degree."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Appeals court upholds Flint Pierson Hood murder conviction

"A state appeals court has upheld the first-degree murder conviction of a man initially charged as part of the Pierson Hood gang bust. Feronda Montre Smith, 38, was convicted in May 2011 for the 2005 killing of Larry Pass Jr. and was sentenced to life in prison."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Ingham County Sobriety Court Foundation holds second breakfast

"The Ingham County Sobriety Court Foundation, formed in 2007, held its second annual breakfast early on October 25th at the Country Club of Lansing, Lansing Mi. President of the Foundation, John Nicolucci, a member of the Foundation Board since 2007, welcomed and thanked everyone for 'attending and supporting our Ingham County Sobriety Courts.' "

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Kalamazoo juvenile lifer's re-sentencing delayed as attorney awaits decisions from Michigan Supreme Court, lawmakers

"It will be several months now before a Kalamazoo juvenile lifer learns whether he will be resentenced for shooting and killing a man in 2011 over a drug deal that went awry. Dallas Augusta McDade Jr., 20, had been scheduled to be resentenced Oct. 25 by Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge Alexander C. Lipsey."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Washtenaw County Legal News: The Michigan Senate passes juvenile sentencing reforms

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Family members get \$1 million of \$1.75-million settlement in lawsuit over Kalamazoo County Jail inmate death

"Family members will split a little over \$1 million from a \$1.75 million settlement of a wrongful death lawsuit finalized this month in the death of a Kalamazoo County Jail inmate who collapsed after suffering heroin withdrawals and later died.... Andrea Armstead, 21, died Nov. 8, 2011 at Bronson Methodist Hospital after collapsing at the jail Nov. 2."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan House votes to extend, expand 'interlock' program for repeat drunk drivers

"The Michigan House on Wednesday voted to make permanent a program allowing residents with multiple drunk driving convictions to obtain a restricted license by installing a breath alcohol ignition 'interlock' device on their vehicles. Early evaluations indicate that the three-year pilot program has effectively discouraged drunk driving behaviors by active participants, but an enabling statute is set to expire in January of 2014."

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: State Solicitor General going back to private practice

"Michigan Solicitor General John J. Bursch has announced that, after 2½ years, he's stepping down to go back to private practice. On Dec. 6, Bursch will return to Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids.... Bursch also argued 11 cases before the Michigan Supreme Court, including State v. McQueen, which held that patient-to-patient transfers of medical marijuana are prohibited in all circumstances; and People v. Likine, regarding the constitutionality of the state's felony statute for the nonpayment of child support."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

SBM Blog: Michigan's Solicitor General To Return To Private Practice

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Koon guilty of sex crimes

"... Rodney Koon, 52, once took his battle with Grand Traverse County authorities over his medical marijuana rights all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court. But one day after he emerged victorious in a decision that reshaped the state's 'zero tolerance' approach toward marijuana patients who get behind the wheel and drive, he was accused of sexually assaulting a female acquaintance."

[Full story](#)